

## Hint of exchange as spy is sentenced

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

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Hans Voelkner, the east German national accused of spying, was today sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment by the state security court. Two women charged with him, Marthe Danilo, a former typist in the cypher office of the Quai d'Orsay, and Simone Leman, members of the spy ring Herr Voelkner directed from east Germany, were given short suspended sentences as accessories.

The court followed the summing up of the Prosecutor General, who had yesterday declared himself utterly convinced of the guilt of the three, but allowed extenuating circumstances for the two women.

"Voelkner has lost. He must pay", he went on. In any case, I am not too concerned about his future. He can, as is often the case with spies, benefit from an exchange.

"Certainly, fate was exceptionally cruel to him since youth. But he is, I am convinced, really a senior secret service officer on a special mission and not an occasional agent, as he claims. He constitutes a potential danger."

The main witness for the defence was M. Gilles Perrault, the author of a history of the "red orchestra", the Soviet espionage organization which operated against the Germans during

the war. Voelkner's mother was a member of this organization in Paris, and for her part in it she was tortured and executed by the Nazis. Her husband had also been executed.

Herr Voelkner had never got over the execution of his parents, and never stopped thinking about his mother. M. Perrault told the court. "I do not share his convictions, but as a Frenchman I feel a debt of gratitude towards his parents."

He added that he got much of the information for his book from former members of the Gestapo he rediscovered in Germany. "What are they doing now?" asked Mr. Joe Nordmann, defending counsel. "They are well, and some have been taken on by the secret service of the Federal Republic", was the reply.

M. Nordmann said in his plea for Herr Voelkner that he had lived obsessed by the memory of his mother. "He never tried to do anything against France, for Nato is not France. Herr Voelkner was accused of trying to get information from the Nato headquarters. Imagine the grief of this man when he learnt that those very men who had arrested and tortured his mother, those former Nazis, had become agents of Nato."